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9 SEPTEMBER 1980

TEL POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
(FOUO 9/80)

1 OF 1

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JPRS L/9292

9 September 1980

Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(FOUO 9/80)



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WORLDWIDE REPORT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

'JPS' VIEWS U.S. DEMANDS FOR SATELLITE RELAY STATION

OW271005 Tokyo JPS in English 0900 GMT 27 Jun 80

[Text] Tokyo Jun 27 JPS--It was revealed that the U.S. forces had demanded that Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. (KDD) set up a special satellite communication station at Yokota base--a station which will cost from 100 million to 200 million yen. This was revealed by investigation conducted by AKAHATA, and KDD showed disapproval because there will be extreme inequalities among AKK [as received] users. For this reason the U.S. forces' demand has not been accepted.

But on the strength of the Japan-U.S. security treaty, the U.S. forces have so far been very tough in calling for the establishment, showing their attitude that they will bring the matter on the establishment to a diplomatic level.

AKAHATA took this up on June 27 and reported: "If this communication station is set up, the U.S. forces will be able to send and receive communication directly in the base, without using a long cable, and [be] able to defend the communication station which will possibly be attacked at the time of the so-called "emergency." In addition, the charges to use the cable can be economized.

Under the regulation of laws relating to communications, AKK cannot leave the operation of a communication station to U.S. forces, and it has to set up the station and operate [it].

"That is, if the KDD meets the U.S. demand, that means the KDD has to set up the communication station by its own expenses costing 100 million to 200 million yen, and the KDD needs to send its personnel into the base to operate it.

"For the KDD, whether it may be the U.S. forces or a trading firm, it is merely a domestic user, and the special demand by the U.S. forces is contrary to the common sense. If KDD accepts the U.S. forces' demands, other trading firms will possibly make similar demands. If KDD does so, it will affect what a special corporation, which legally possess the monopoly right should be."

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

POLISH AID TO ETHIOPIA--The Ethiopian minister of information, Mr Yilma Girma, returned to Addis Ababa on 18 July from a 10-day visit to Poland on invitation from the radio and television officials of that country. During the visit, Mr Girma signed a protocol for the development of Ethiopian radio and television and for the training of Ethiopian journalists in Poland. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEES in French 25 Jul 80 p 1869]

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

TOKYO-BEIJING TELEPHONE SERVICE--Tokyo, Aug. 14 (JIJI Press)--Japan and China will partially automate international telephone service between Tokyo and Shanghai by the year's end and those between Tokyo and Beijing (Peking) within next year. This was disclosed by President Motoichi Masuda of Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. (KDD), Japan's overseas telecommunications monopoly, who recently returned home from a trip to China, where he met with officials of the directorate-general of Telecommunications, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry. The Tokyo-Shanghai services will totally be automated by the end of next year, he said. Masuda said China will shortly extend its telex services to Dalian, Qingdao, Nanjing and Hangzhou. It was decided that Japan and China will positively expand circuit leasing services and set up new circuits, he said. The two sides also agreed to discuss introduction of such new services as international facsimile telegraph services and international data telex services between the two nations. Besides, they also agreed on an annual exchange of employees, including operators, Masuda said. [Tokyo JIJI in English 1431 GMT 14 Aug 80 OW]

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JAPAN

NTT DEVELOPS REVOLUTIONARY SPACE SWITCHBOARD

OW111233 Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 10 Aug 80 p 12

[Text] Experiments by Japanese scientists could lead to a breakthrough in international telecommunications, thanks to a kind of "switchboard in space" developed by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation.

In a development plan submitted to the Space Development Council Friday, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications says it plans to test the new device later this decade as part of its research and development program in satellite communications technology.

The program calls for two stationary satellites to be put aloft, one an experimental communications satellite (ECS2) in 1986 and the other an experimental broadcasting satellite (EBS) in 1987.

Both will be launched from the National Space Development Agency's Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture.

The new device, known as an intelligent transponder, is an automatic circuit exchange and relay amplifier operated by a kind of artificial brain.

It will be carried aboard the ECS2, along with experimental millimeter wave communications equipment of the same kind carried on the agency's earlier Ayame research satellites, both of which were lost from contact after launching.

Communications satellites now in operation, such as Intelsat and the Japanese satellite Sakura, relay back radio waves received from ground stations indiscriminately over a huge area.

Ministry officials say the new device corrects this inefficiency because it links each ground station to the satellite by a fine beam of radio waves and can operate like an automatic switchboard according to demand at any time.

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According to the ministry plan, the ECS2 will experiment with both millimeter and submillimeter waves. Because of their high frequency, these waves are considered the most promising medium for future large-volume telecommunications, especially as microwaves now used by communications satellites are also used in ground communications and interference can occur.

Officials said the EBS satellite will carry equipment capable of transmitting high-quality television images, aimed at developing satellite television transmission equal in quality to ground transmission.

The ECS2 satellite will weigh 350-550 kilograms and cost 30 billion yen and the EBS satellite 550 kilograms, at a cost of 40 billion yen, according to the ministry plan.

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JAPAN

MITI TO DEVELOP HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMPUTER

OW060837 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 5 Aug 80 p 1--FOR OFFICIAL
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/Text/ The Ministry of International Trade and Industry has decided to develop a computer with several thousand times the calculating speed of the largest computer existing today by 1980. The computer will be used for the structural analysis of aircraft, the safety analysis of nuclear reactors and processing the huge amount of data that will be sent by satellites used to discover resources. Its impact will not be only in the area of computers, but it is expected to raise the level of scientific and technical development in Japan.

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JAPAN

BRIEFS

PUBLIC FACSIMILE SERVICE--The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on 8 July granted Nippon Telegraph and Telephone public corporation [NTT] permission to open a "public facsimile service," whereby an addressee equipped with a facsimile receiving machine can receive facsimile messages from the sender through a telephone or telegraph office. NTT plans to start this service in mid-August at 179 telephone and telegraph offices in Tokyo, Osaka, Yokohama and Nagoya. [Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 9 Jul 80 p 8 OW]

NEW TV SCREENING TECHNIQUE--A new technique paving the way for a "wall television" has been developed by researchers at Hitachi's Central Research Institute. The new technique will be reported to an electronic parts and materials study meeting of the Electronic Communication Study Association at the Machinery Promotion Hall in Tokyo's Shiba area on 31 July. With the new method, the Braun tubes in a TV set are replaced by a glass plate with numerous transistors on it. The company is planning to sell these plates for use in television sets for household use in 1 or 2 years' time. The multicrystal silicone thin-membrane transistors were developed by a team of researchers headed by Eiichi Maruyama. Silicone crystals, which form the transistors, are "grown" on a hard glass plate about 0.2 millimeter in thickness in a superhigh vacuum, making a silicone layer about 1 micron (1/1,000th millimeter) thick. By placing silicone oxide membranes and aluminum electrodes on the layer, countless thin membrane transistors of about 2 microns in thickness are formed. [Text] [Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 15 Jul 80 p 3 OW]

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

NONALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL MEETING TO BE HELD

PA101956 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1540 GMT 10 Aug 80--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[By Javier Rodriguez]

[Text] Managua, 10 Aug (PL)--Carlos Garcia, member of the State Council and director of the NEW NICARAGUA NEWS AGENCY (ANN), has noted the importance of the forthcoming meeting of the pool of news agencies of the nonaligned countries to take place here. During an interview with PRENSA LATINA, Garcia said the meeting to be held in Managua by the pool's coordination committee beginning on 18 August [date as received] is an event of the greatest importance.

According to Garcia, the meeting to take place in the Nicaraguan capital ratifies the firm Sandinist decision to contribute to the establishment of new international relations in the field of news. These relations are to be based on a broad concept of equality and mutual respect. He stated: "Nicaragua joined the nonaligned movement 41 days after the popular victory to break with a past of submission to imperialism. Twelve months later, today, we reaffirm our purpose to seek a new economic and news reporting order."

Garcia noted that the choosing of Nicaragua as host of the fifth meeting of the pool's coordination committee represents a recognition of the Sandinist efforts to promote this new type of relations, which would contribute to lasting world peace.

Regarding the significance that participation in the pool has for ANN, Garcia noted that this participation makes it possible for Nicaragua to establish broad communications with many sister nations that could not be reached before. "The pool allows us to make known our process and our true situation and to counteract the campaign of distortions and slander of the international news media," he said.

Garcia also noted that the pool also made it easier for ANN to initiate bilateral relations with other agencies that have given all sorts of help as well as technical assistance for the training of personnel. "The pool of news agencies of the nonaligned countries has allowed us to break with a past of isolation, dependency and servility based on misinformation," he stated.

Garcia noted that Nicaragua's journalists consider the holding of the meeting in Managua to be an expression of the present situation in the country. Only a true revolution, he said, would make possible the creation of a national news agency aimed at liquidating, by every means, dependency on the big capitalist news monopolies. Only a true revolution, he added, would allow Nicaragua's integration to the nonaligned movement.

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CUBA

'PRELA' OPENS NEW RADIO, TV INFORMATION SERVICE

PA061956 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Aug 80--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Havana, 8 Jul [as received] (PL)--The PRENSA LATINA news agency dedicated today an information service for radio and television stations.

The new service will provide voice-recorded information by the correspondents and contributors which PRENSA LATINA has in more than 40 countries.

This material will first be offered, via satellite, to the radio and television stations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The radio and television services office, which was dedicated today here, has modern equipment that can handle several calls by correspondents at the same time and can provide information to several customers at the same time.

This modernization is part of PRENSA LATINA's plans to improve its information services to the nonaligned and developing countries.

PRENSA LATINA recently began a special transmission of 6 hours daily in 4 languages (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish) to the Middle East and Africa.

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CUBA

BRIEFS

'PRELA' AUTOMATION PROJECT--Havana, 9 Aug (PL)--The PRENSA LATINA Agency will undertake a development plan on the basis of computer techniques applied to telecommunications, which will permit the automation of their cablegraphic services in the 1981-1985 period. For that purpose, PRENSA LATINA has signed a scientific and technical cooperation agreement with the National Institute of Automated and Computer Techniques Systems of Cuba (INSAC). This new stage of work of the agency is taking place due to the need to find a modern, rapid and efficient system with which to confront the growing demands of news communication. PRELA and the INSAC will develop an automated system based on the utilization of Cuban-made modern computers for the processing and storage of information operated by the agency. A joint working group will be created which will carry out its work in three stages, and specialized training courses will be given for the journalistic and technical personnel. [PA092157 Havana PRELA in English 1851 GMT 9 Aug 80 PA]

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NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

SATELLITE LINK AGREEMENT SIGNED--Managua, 26 Aug--The establishment of a satellite communications channel between Yugoslavia, Mexico and Central America will soon guarantee new lines for the flow of news among the nonaligned and developing countries. This was announced by Pero Ivacic, chairman of the Coordination Committee of the Nonaligned News Agencies Pool, and Humberto Delgado, deputy director of the Mexican news agency NOTIMEX after the signing of an agreement on the exchange of news between NOTIMEX and the New Nicaragua News Agency (ANN). Delgado said that the representatives of the news agencies VENPRESS of Venezuela, PRENSA LATINA and NOTIMEX will meet in Caracas in September to discuss the creation of the Federation of Latin American Press Agencies. [Text] [PA270316 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1820 GMT 26 Aug 80]

'ANN,'NOTIMEX' COOPERATION; SATELLITE LINK--Managua, 24 Aug--Representatives of the New Nicaragua News Agency [ANN] and NOTIMEX, S.A. have signed an agreement on the exchange of news reports and experience. The agreement provides for establishment of direct satellite communications between the two agencies. During the meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Nonaligned Countries' News Agencies Pool in Managua 18-21 August, ANN signed bilateral agreements on the exchange of new reports and cooperation with the TANJUG press agency of Yugoslavia, PRENSA LATINA of Cuba and VNA of Vietnam. These agreements are part of the efforts of cooperation among the nonaligned countries as well as their contribution to the formation of a new worldwide information order. [Text] [Havana PRELA in Spanish 1735 GMT 24 Aug 80]

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE FOR AFRICA UNLIKELY SOON

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 30 Jul 80 p 62

[Article by Siradiou Diallo]

[Text]

In even shorter supply than the financial wherewithal is the political will to give the continent a modern communications system.

As satellites appear like mushrooms in the skies over America, Europe, and Asia, must the African continent be content with traditional means of communication? When the question was raised at the OAU summit meeting in July 1979 in Monrovia, the organization asked its secretariat to study it. Against that background, the African Postal and Telecommunications Union (APTU), an organization of 15 mainly francophone countries, took the initiative and set up a 5-day colloquium in Lome (Togo) from 7 to 11 July, which proved remarkably enlightening.

Jurisdiction

From the first, the experts found they agreed on one count: the needs in this area are enormous. Be it in conventional telecommunications like the telephone, telex, or telegraphy, maritime, aviation, or weather systems, radio and television, not to mention the technologies only now on the market such as videotex, teletex, or teleconference facilities, Africa is terribly under-equipped. For instance, the people from the African airlines and from the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) sent shudders through the hall when they described the terrifying pirouettes they have to perform every day for lack of adequate equipment.

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Even so, the shortcomings in the present system are not, as some participants admit, purely technical. They stem from technical questions of jurisdiction, of organization, and of motivation.

Can a communication satellite system ease the technological shortcomings and at the same time clamber over the political obstacles that make the road to African unity so difficult? A satellite is certainly no panacea which could, with one wave of a magic wand, solve all the telecommunications problems facing Africa. However, as those at the colloquium agreed, this kind of equipment does offer major advantages, especially in a continent famous for its natural barriers, its very low population density, its material poverty, and its lack of cadre and engineers. The satellite is unquestionably better adapted to the task than any other communication medium. First of all, because it can reach the territorial area for which it is designed without regard for natural barriers. Secondly, and most important, it requires a relatively small staff to operate and maintain. Tests and repairs are handled automatically from the main station. Rural areas could easily benefit from this kind of investment.

As for the financial means needed to launch an African satellite, they are, after all, within the reach of our states, provided they are willing to join together to do it. The investment would be on the order of \$200 million (45 billion CFA). With all the ancillary equipment, the package would run between 70 and 80 billion CFA francs.

Europe Is Ready

More than a lack of funds, it is the lack of political will that may well stand in the way of such a project. Some states, such as Nigeria and Zaire, already have domestic satellites which they do not seem to be prepared to scrap in favor of a regional system. And then of course there are the ambitions and self-interest of both sides. Given these conditions, one can see why the European states are already well into designing and orbiting a satellite that would also cover Africa. Should the European project come to birth before agreement is reached at the African level, our lag in telecommunications would be hard to catch up. We should be forever earthbound.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

UAPT PLANS FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

UAPT Regional Cooperation

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 25 Jun 80 p 27

[Text] Links after 18 years

At the time when the United Nations launches the decade of telecommunications, how should the Post and Telecommunications infrastructure be developed? That will be the main topic at the annual session of the Council of Ministers of the African Postal and Telecommunications Union (UAPT). This meeting will take place in Dakar from 30 June to 4 July and will bring together the ministers of Posts and Telecommunications from 15 African members of that organization which has its headquarters in Brazzaville, and whose acting president, Mr Daouda Sow, is minister of Posts and Telecommunications in Senegal.

Is the UAPT only one acronym among many for postal services in Africa? In fact, aside from this regional organization, there is the Pan-African Postal Union (UPAP), established in 1979, the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (UPAT), established in 1977, not to mention the Maghreb Postal and Telecommunications Organization, and the Arab unions.

The UAPT has the advantage of being 18 years old today. Connected to OCAM (The African-Mauritian Common Organization) until 1977, its goal is to open up to other African countries and to defend the principle of complementarity. Its office of the secretary general, run by Upper Voltan Mamadou Sompore, succeeded, during the past 3 years, in making the UAPT a dynamic organization, and to see to it that the decisions of the union's Council of Ministers do not go unheeded, as is often the case, unfortunately, in such organizations.

The infrastructures need concrete action on a regional scale. Can the Dakar session help?

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UAPT Official Interviewed

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 25 Jun 80 p 90

[Interview with Mamadou Simporte, secretary general of the African Postal and Telecommunications Union]

[Text] At the age of 44, the secretary general of the African Postal and Telecommunications Union, Mr Mamadou Simporte, is a mixture of humility and...soundness. Especially in showing a sound education. An Upper Voltan, he was educated at the Van Vollen Hoffen Lycee in Dakar, where he met many of the future, high-ranking officials and leaders of African countries. He completed his advanced studies in France: receiving a law degree, and then graduating from the Advanced National School of P and T [Postal and Telecommunications Administration].

To this legal and technical education he added a degree in international studies. Previously, for about 10 years, he was general manager of Posts and Telecommunications in Upper Volta. He speaks of this cooperation not only as a man in the field thirsting for action, but also with unshakable faith.

[Question] What does the UAPT action mean in the development of member states?

[Answer] When it was first established, the UAPT tried to work towards harmonizing the rules, on operating methods, and on training. But very soon, with the development of our countries, communications appeared as a support that needed to be given priority.

[Question] In your opinion, was it given this priority?

[Answer] A great effort was made... But, in my opinion, a greater effort has to be made, especially during this decade of telecommunications. It would be very desirable if, over the next 5 years, governments gave priority to programs for posts and telecommunications.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Because it is evident that there is no development in countries that do not have telecommunications integration and infrastructures. This development keeps progressing and the infrastructures must come first in order to meet future needs and to make investments profitable. The techniques used today are more and more sophisticated: tele-data processing, electronic station, satellites, etc., and we may not be able to keep up...

[Question] At what stage, exactly, is the African plan for telecommunication by satellite, and what do you think of it?

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[Answer] We must use the most modern technology, as much as possible, keeping in mind our countries' characteristics and our real needs. For technical reasons, space telecommunication fits our needs in Africa. Maintenance and operation offer more safety and reliability than ordinary means. A satellite network will meet the need for telephone, telex, radio and rural telecommunications. It will enable us to overcome certain natural obstacles: forests, waterways, etc., which make it difficult to penetrate inland, and demographic obstacles (namely desert countries where the population is scattered). For all these reasons, the UAPT, in conjunction with other organizations, is studying a plan for space telecommunications.

The Other Excess

[Question] When will it be carried out?

[Answer] We are at the stage of information and sensitization, which will lead us to the stage where we define our needs and enable our countries to make decisions. If the Ariane rocket launcher is operational in 1981, then we may launch a satellite in 1985, should that decision be made.

[Question] And in the meantime?

[Answer] Many African countries use the Intelsat network in dealing with foreign countries, and some even have a domestic network through Intelsat.

[Question] Does one still have to go through a European capital to telephone from one African country to another?

[Answer] This is less and less the case. It is now a question of cooperation between countries. The famous triangle is avoided. Besides, that is the role of the UAPT. Once we have a satellite all this will be settled. It is the other excess that must be avoided, the plethora of means.

Rural Population

[Question] According to you, what kind of action should the UAPT take in the future?

[Answer] In the postal service, member states must master the interregional distribution of mail, and see to it that it does not take a month for a letter to go from one country to another. To that end we must develop cooperation with existing national and multinational transport organizations.

Regarding financial cooperation, it is a matter of preserving the maintenance unit of the postal financial services between member states, by helping to improve the setup for regulations. Besides, the services must be improved and modernized, and they must be given the means to become competitive with existing banking establishments.

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To reach such objectives, we must emphasize professional training, improved management, and the development of cooperation between countries of the UAPT on the whole continent, with regional organizations of economic cooperation (OCAM [African-Mauritian Common Organization], CEAO [West African Economic Community]...), and special agencies of the United Nations (such as the IUT [expansion unknown]).

[Question] In practical terms, what does this program mean to the user?

[Answer] For example, this will allow an inhabitant of Lome to send quite easily a letter to Nouakchott. It will also enable the Malian worker, or the Upper Voltan working in the Ivory Coast to send his savings to the family at home within a reasonable amount of time. It would allow the administration to reach the rural population.

On the other hand, it also gives the users a chance to communicate more easily with each other by putting the telephone and the telex at their disposal, and under the best conditions.

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BURUNDI

BRIEFS

IDA LOAN--The Government of Burundi will use a credit of 7.7 million dollars granted at the end of July by the IDA [International Development Association], an affiliate of the World Bank, to put into operation its 1980-1984 program for investments in the field of telecommunications the aim of which is to improve the quality of services and to extend them to regions and population groups which have not so far had service. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEEES in French 8 Aug 80 p 1985]

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RWANDA

BRIEFS

IDA LOAN--At the end of July, the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, granted Rwanda 7.5 million dollars credit to help it achieve its 5-year development program for telecommunications. Internal and external services will be expanded and modernized. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEEES in French 8 Aug 80 p 1985]

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SOMALIA

BRIEFS

FRENCH COLOR TELEVISION SYSTEM--Somalia recently adopted the SECAM French color television system following a cooperation agreement in the audio-visual technical field. According to the terms of this agreement, France will contribute its assistance for the production and showing of Somalian television broadcasts and will provide some equipment, as well as training and technical assistance. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Jun 80 p 1331]

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FRANCO-SWEDISH TV SATELLITE COOPERATION PROJECT REVIEWED

Paris AIR & COSMOS in French 28 Jun 80 p 44

[Article by Serge Berg]

[Text] Swedish industry would like to participate in the implementation of the French part of the Franco-German direct television satellite project, according to J. Stiernstedt, president of the Swedish space activities delegation at the Franco-Swedish industrial symposium which was held in Paris on 16 and 17 June 1980. Stiernstedt added that in exchange French industry would take part in the development of the Swedish experimental telecommunications satellite, TELEX X." Specialists of both countries have had talks on this subject.

This symposium gave top level officials the opportunity to emphasize space cooperation between the two countries. What is more, it was held at the very moment the King of Sweden, Carl Gustav, was visiting France. The King opened the symposium in the presence of Andre Giraud, French minister of industry, and Pierre Aigrain, secretary of state for research, who closed the meeting.

Following this, at a lunch given in honor of the Swedish King on 19 June, Prime Minister Raymond Barre, speaking of bilateral relations, emphasized: "Greater cooperation could develop in the future between our research personnel and engineers, particularly in the space sector." For his part, the King of Sweden said: "Cooperation between the two countries in the space sector is worthy of special attention."

It is known that Sweden is deeply involved in the "Spot" observation satellite project, that its position matches that of France in the ESA [European Space Agency] for the development of a European orbit engine [moteur d'apogee], that its first "Viking" satellite is to be launched by "Ariane" in 1984 (at the same time as "Spot") and, finally, that interesting prospects for French industry could be derived from the telecommunications satellite project of the Scandinavian countries, namely "NORDSAT."

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FRANCE

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO BE INSTALLED IN NIGER

Paris AIR & COSMOS in French 5 Jul 80 pp 33, 40

[Article by Pierre Langereux: "France Installs a Network of Space Telecommunications in Niger"]

[Text] The Thomson-CSF company has just been awarded by the Office of Postal Service and Telecommunications of Niger (OPT) a contract for the construction, jointly with Telspace (an Economic Interest Group constituted between Thomson-CSF and CIT-Alcatel), of an important network of satellite telecommunications, of which it will oversee the work. The contract, valued at F 276 million, has just been signed in Paris by Lt Col Sory Mamadou Diallo, minister of telecommunications of Niger (see AIR & COSMOS No 810).

This network, whose purpose is to improve international telecommunications service and to open up areas which are still poorly served, includes the following equipment.

For the Office of Postal Service and Telecommunications, Telspace will provide a standard A ground station (diameter of the antenna 32.5m) in contact with an "Intelsat" satellite over the Atlantic Ocean and four national ground stations with antennas of 11.8 m, which will be located at Agadez, Dima, Bilma, and Diffa. Further, Thomson-CSF will provide a radio link 275 km long, connecting Agadez to Arlit, with branch lines intended to serve various mining operations and a CP 400 telephone switchboard which will be installed in Arlit, with extensions for the new International Transit Center.

For the Office of Radiobroadcasting and Television of Niger (ORTN), Thomson-CSF will furnish four television transmitters which will be set up at Agadez, Arlit, Bilma, and Diffa, and a re-transmitter which will be installed at Ingal.

General planning of the system will be entrusted to SOFRECOM, with the collaboration of TDS and of France Cable-Radio for their respective areas.

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This network will be delivered on a "turnkey" basis. The main part of the program should be completed between March and September, 1981.

After the "Rezatelsat" of Zaire, which is due to be inaugurated at the end of 1980, this is the second large integrated African network of telecommunications and television, using transmission by satellite, whose construction has been entrusted to Thomson-CSF.

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